

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 055965
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:TSWILKINSON:PG
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY
NEA:ALATHERTON
P - PCHABIB
S/S:MR. ORTIZ (S/S 7705569)

-----121710Z 013330 /44

P 121700Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 055965

FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PPDC, TS

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S RESPONSE TO FEBRUARY 12 LETTER FROM
FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTY

1. YOU ARE REQUESTED TO DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM
SECRETARY VANCE TO TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HABIB CHATTY:
QUOTE: DEAR MR. MINISTER: I WANT TO THANK YOU SINCERELY
FOR CONVEYING YOUR WRITTEN AND ORAL VIEWS TO ME THROUGH
AMBASSADOR MULCAHY DURING MY RECENT MIDDLE EAST TRIP. I
SHARE YOUR CONVICTION THAT OUR LONG-STANDING FRIENDLY
RELATIONS SHOULD CONTINUE AND BE CONSOLIDATED THROUGH
CLOSE COOPERATION IN BOTH BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL MAT-
TERS. I RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS THAT TUNISIA,
UNDER PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA, HAS MADE TO DEVELOP A BASIS FOR
PROGRESS TOWARDS A MIDDLE EAST PEACE AGREEMENT. YOUR
EFFORTS HAVE PROVEN TO BE A STRONG SUPPLEMENT TO OUR OWN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 055965

MIDDLE EAST PEACE DIPLOMACY. IN THIS REGARD, I AM HAPPY
TO INFORM YOU THAT I BELIEVE THAT MY MIDDLE EAST TRIP
ACHIEVED THE OBJECTIVES THAT WE HAD SOUGHT. I

BELIEVE THAT WE SUCCESSFULLY DEMONSTRATED PRESIDENT
CARTER'S COMMITMENT TO RENEW MOMENTUM TOWARD A MIDDLE EAST
PEACE, AND WE ESTABLISHED DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE LEADERS

OF KEY CONFRONTATION COUNTRIES. IN BRIEF, MY CONCLUSIONS ARE THAT THERE IS A CLEAR DETERMINATION TO MAKE A SERIOUS

EFFORT FOR PEACE, AND A CONSENSUS THAT WE SHOULD WORK TOWARDS RECONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1977. WITH THIS SERIOUSNESS OF PURPOSE ON THE PART OF ALL CONCERNED, I HOPE THAT WE CAN OVERCOME PROCEDURAL OBSTACLES AND LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR AN OPEN DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS.

I ALSO APPRECIATED HEARING YOUR THOUGHTFUL VIEWS ON THE QUESTIONS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE LAW OF THE SEA, AND I JOIN YOU IN THE HOPE THAT WE WILL HAVE THE OCCASION TO DISCUSS THESE AND OTHER ISSUES TOGETHER IN PERSON AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME. SINCERELY, CYRUS VANCE. END QUOTE.

2. INFORMAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF CHATTY LETTER TO SECRETARY VANCE, DATED FEBRUARY 12, 1977, IS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE: DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I WOULD FIRST LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR THE VERBAL MESSAGE THAT YOU KINDLY SENT TO ME THROUGH AMBASSADOR MULCAHY. I REGRET THAT YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO COME TO TUNIS DURING YOUR JOURNEY THROUGH THE MIDDLE EAST. WHILE WAITING FOR A MEETING WHICH I HOPE WILL BE SOON, I AM PLEASED TO CHARGE AMBASSADOR MULCAHY WITH THIS MESSAGE TO PRESENT TO YOU.

I AM CONVINCED THAT THE LONG STANDING RELATIONS OF DEEP AND RECIPROCAL FRIENDSHIP AND ESTEEM WHICH HAVE ALWAYS

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 055965

AND SO HAPPILY EXISTED BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES WILL, UNDER YOUR INFLUENCE, EXPERIENCE A NEW THRUST.

THE PERSONAL QUALITIES WHICH YOU HAVE SHOWN IN THE PAST, THE COMPETENCE AND EXPERIENCE WHICH ARE UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED IN YOU WILL, I AM SURE, GUARANTEE TO AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY AN EVEN GREATER EFFECTIVENESS IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE ASPIRATIONS OF HUMANITY FOR PEACE, LIBERTY AND PROGRESS.

FOR MY PART, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT, LOYAL TO THE DEEP CONVICTION AND THE GUIDANCE OF PRESIDENT HABIB BOURGUIBA, I WILL SPARE NO EFFORT TO CONSOLIDATE EVEN MORE THIS UNDERSTANDING AND THIS COOPERATION THAT IS IN THE MUTUAL INTEREST OF OUR TWO PEOPLES AND TO MAKE OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE ELIMINATION OF THE CAUSES OF TENSION IN THE WORLD.

OUR ATTACHMENT TO THE SAME IDEALS AND THE CONVERGENCE OF OUR POSITIONS IN SEVERAL AREAS WILL NOT FAIL TO AID IN

THE DEFINITION OF A HAPPY CONCLUSION TO SINCERE EFFORTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ERA OF PEACE AND COOPERATION, NOTABLY IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

TUNISIAN FOREIGN POLICY, AS YOU KNOW, HAS NEVER CEASED TO WORK IN THIS DIRECTION. EQUALLY, TUNISIA HAS ALWAYS ADVOCATED A RETURN TO UNITED NATIONS LEGALITY FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM WHICH IS THE PRE-CONDITION FOR THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRUE PEACE THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE EAST. SUCH AN APPROACH BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT GUARANTEEING TO ALL STATES OF THE REGION THE RIGHT TO EXIST AND RE-ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL AND LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF PERTINENT RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS COULD BRING ABOUT A DURABLE AND JUST SOLUTION. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY, UNDER YOUR GUIDANCE WILL MAKE, IN THIS AREA
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 055965

ESPECIALLY, A DECISIVE CONTRIBUTION.

ELSEWHERE, IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE SITUATION CONTINUES TO BE WORRISOME. THE TROUBLES IN NAMIBIA, RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA CARRY THE GERMS OF A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF THIS REGION AND OF THE WORLD.

IN THIS AREA AS WELL, IT SEEMS OPPORTUNE TO US TO JOIN OUR EFFORTS IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE THE CAUSES OF TENSION AND TO PUT AN END TO THE ESCALATION OF DESPAIR AND VIOLENCE BY RESPONDING TO THE HOPES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE REGION FOR INDEPENDENCE, LIBERTY AND DIGNITY.

IT IS INCONTESTABLE THAT THE PRIME CHALLENGE OF OUR AGE REMAINS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER THAT IS BOTH STABLE AND JUST. ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND SOCIAL BETTERMENT CONSTITUTE TWO ASPECTS OF THE REALITIES OF OUR WORLD TODAY. GREAT AND SMALL NATIONS CAN NO LONGER RIGHTLY CONCEIVE OF THEIR PROGRESS IN ISOLATION AND EVEN LESS IN CONFRONTATION, AND ALL NATIONS ARE CALLED ON TO TAKE UP THIS CHALLENGE AND FIND AN APPROPRIATE SOLUTION, NOTABLY THROUGH THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY.

IN THIS SAME SPIRIT, OUR TWO COUNTRIES ASSIGN THE GREATEST VALUE TO THE WORK OF THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON LAW OF THE SEA. ON THIS SUBJECT, DELICATE BUT VITAL FOR ALL HUMANITY, OUR RESPECTIVE DELEGATIONS WILL CONTINUE AS IN THE PAST TO CONSULT AND COLLABORATE WITH THE PURPOSE OF AIDING THE SUCCESS OF THIS IMPORTANT EFFORT.

MR. SECRETARY OF STATE, I THOUGHT IT USEFUL TO TAKE THIS

OCCASION TO GIVE YOU BRIEFLY THESE FEW THOUGHTS IN THE
HOPE OF SOON HAVING THE OCCASION TO EXAMINE THEM THOR-
OUGHLY WITH YOU IN PERSON WHETHER IT BE IN TUNIS OR
WASHINGTON.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 055965

WITH THE ASSURANCES OF MY VERY HIGH CONSIDERATION. HABIB
CHATTY. END QUOTE.

VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE055965
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TSWILKINSON:PG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770086-0279
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770365/aaaacexw.tel
Line Count: 186
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 398f24b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3125122
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S RESPONSE TO FEBRUARY 12 LETTER FROM FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTY
TAGS: PPDC, PSDC, TS, US, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (CHATTY, HABIB)
To: TUNIS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/398f24b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009